



Marine Staff Sergeants Walter Cohee and Dwight Morgan are remembered after their CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter crashed in Afghanistan killing them both.

ARG stops here

Operation Enduring Freedom Sailors, Marines enroute home

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More than 4,000 Sailors and Marines embarked aboard three amphibious warships steamed into Pearl Harbor Saturday morning.

Sailors aboard USS Peleliu (LHA 5), USS Comstock (LSD 45) and USS Dubuque (LPD 8) along with Marines from the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) (special operations capable) stopped in Pearl Harbor on their way back to San Diego.

The three ships form an Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), led by Amphibious Squadron One. The ARG is on its way home after supporting Operation Enduring Freedom - part of America's war against international terrorism.

Although the majority of USS Peleliu's mission was to transport the Marines from the MEU to the fight and support them once they were there, Peleliu also fulfilled addi-

tional needs as both hospital and detention center.

Capt. Dennis D. DuBard, Peleliu's commanding officer, said the ship played an important role due to its superior hospital capabilities. He stressed the importance of the ship's operating room and surgical team.

Although the Peleliu's medical team tended to allied casualties, they also cared for possible Taliban fighters.

John Walker Lindh, the "American Taliban," was brought aboard Peleliu for medical assistance. DuBard noted that Lindh had a gunshot wound to his left leg and was 'pretty banged up,' but the ship's medical staff attended to his needs.

USS Peleliu picked up some new guests while in Pearl Harbor. Nearly 400 family members joined the ARG for the conclusion of its deployment, a tiger cruise.

"It's a good opportunity for the folks to see what their tax dollars are paying for," said Capt. Bill Jezierski, commodore of the ARG.



Above: USS Dubuque (LPD 8) pulls into Pearl Harbor next to USS Peleliu (LHA 5).

Right: Marines aboard USS Dubuque (LPD 8) fall in for a briefing before liberty is called.



Above: Sailors greet and hug familymembers waiting at the pier.

Left: USS Dubuque (LPD 8) nears Hotel pier.

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